

so short as to render this so-called cotton commercially valueless. The wood is soft and spongy and of little value. Another red cotton tree of smaller size and with a prickly trunk is the *Salmalia Malabarica* (Cm. Mulu yelava). The Dindul or "*Conocarpus latifolius*" is a fine timber tree and very frequent in the deciduous jungles. The heart-wood is of a chocolate colour and exceedingly durable. The Kurubas use it for axe-handles. When burning it emits an intense and sustained heat and is therefore highly prized for lime kilns and distilleries. The *Hedde-mara* or "*Naucllea cordifolia*" yields a beautiful close-grained wood resembling box; but it cannot withstand exposure to damp. Its small yellow flowers appear in November and December. The "*Rottleria tinctoria*" furnishes an orange dye—the kapela ranga. The *Soap-nut tree* (*sapindus*) which is here rather common, produces a small fruit, the pulp of which is saponaceous and used by the natives for washing. For marking their cotton clothes the pure black acrid juice of the shell of the "marking nut" is used; it is the fruit of a tree about 50 feet high, the *Semercarpus Anacardium*. The native ink is chiefly manufactured with the fruit or galls of the *Alali-mara* and sulphate of iron. This tree, the *Terminalia chebula*, yields excellent galls produced by insects puncturing the tender leaves. The astringent nuts bruised and mixed with molasses and chunam produce a very strong mortar. They are also largely used for tannin purposes.

On the outskirts of bamboo jungles the *Indian Coral tree* (*Erythrina Indica*) with its brilliant scarlet flowers may be frequently found; its soft wood is much used for toys. On account of its prickly bark the branches make good fences, and where the betel vine is cultivated this tree offers an excellent support. A very pretty tree with spreading pinnate foliage and gooseberry like seeds is the *Nelli-kai-mara* or "*Emblica Officinalis*." The fruit though hard is welcome to many for its thirst assuaging properties. Sometimes it is Preserved in Sugar.

137

314

[313]

[372]

[386]

[388]

[386]

[333]

[281]

[313]

[245]

[271]

[251]

137 preserved in sugar. The Bastard Teak (*Butea frondosa*),
 314 though common, is a very beautiful tree when in flower. Its
 386 scarlet flowers dye cotton yellow, and from the bark when cut
 a gum "Palas-kino" is obtained. A fragrant resin called
 "Kundricum" is furnished by the *Gugula-mara* (*Boswellia*
glabra) an erect tall tree covered with greenish ash-coloured
 bark.

On the table-land of Mercara the *Kake-mara* or the Coorg
 1-Burnum (*Cathartocarpus fistula*) is particularly conspicuous
 in April and May by its beautiful long pendulous racemes of
 298 yellow flowers. Its long cylindric legumes of dark brown
 colour and nearly 2 feet in length contain a mucilaginous
 pulp, which is a valuable laxative when mixed with Cassia.

137 On the same plateau is found the American Aloe (*Agave*
 245 *Americana*) with its high flower stem and long thick leaves,
 which might be turned into excellent fibre, but beyond a few
 experiments no manufacture is carried on. The plant serves
 for making fences only. It has been superseded, however,
 by the *Lantana* shrub (*Lantana Aculeata*), which within a
 few years has spread over the whole of Coorg. Its square
 stem and branches are prickly, its ovate leaves when bruised
 have a strong smell of black currants, and its orange coloured
 flowers are more or less in blossom throughout the year, and
 the shrub when kept within proper bounds makes an excel-
 lent fence. But this plant whose vitality is most obstinate,
 threatens to overrun many a tract of land in Coorg and else-

137 where that might be far more profitably occupied. The re-
 314 cognised necessity of shading exposed coffee plantations has
 brought to notice a tree, chiefly distinguished for its quick
 growth and shady crown—the *Charcoal tree* (*Spones Wightii*)
 It springs up spontaneously on every new clearing after the
 burn and mostly so in the eastern districts. Its wood pro-
 duces a fine charcoal and its bark an excellent fibre. For
 beauty of shape and foliage the solitary *Nela-madina-mara*

314 the *Nerium grandiflorum* and the *Isora corylifolia* or sham hazel.

g. Tannin—the produce of the bark of the Babool tree, the Neem tree, the *Bauhinia variegata*, the *Buchanania latifolia*, the *Hymenodactylon excelsum*, of the pod of the Divi-divi tree (*Caesalpinia Coriaria*), and of the nut of the *Alalimara* (*Terminalia Chebula*).

• [386] *h. Dyes*—Red, obtained from the *Rottleria tinctoria*, the Indian madder (*Hedyotis umbellata*), Indian mulberry (*Morinda citrifolia*) the red sandal (*Pterocarpus Santalinus*). Yellow, from the bastard teak (*Butea frondosa*), the gamboge tree (*Garcinia pictoria*), the *Xanthochymus pictorius* and the *Berberis tinctoria*.

[388] *i. Saponaceous matter*—yielded by the bark of the Babool tree, the pods of *Mimosa saponaria* and the fruit of the Soapnut tree (*Sapindus*).

*136 *General fauna of Coorg*—It may be easily imagined, that a country, so well watered and wooded and with a vegetation abounding in nourishing produce, will sustain a great variety of animal life. This was still more the case ere the resounding axe of the planter and the still more frequent echo of the sportsman's rifle have disturbed the animals' secluded abodes and driven them to remoter regions.

A brief grouping of the more prominent representatives of animal life in Coorg will be all that can be attempted within the small space allotted to the subject. Descending in the scale of zoological classification, it is the monkey tribe, that first claims our attention and there are 3 species for inspection: the black, the grey and the brown monkey. The black monkey or "Wanderoo" (*Silenus veter. Linn*)—Kg. Karigode—is rather scarce and only found in the Male-kádu or Ghat forests. It has greyish whiskers, chest and belly, and is of small size. Its intelligent look and playful disposition render it a favorite with the natives, but like other monkeys,